

09/719870

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PATENT  
1770-206"US" FC/JM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Masad José DAMHA et al.**  
Application No.: **PCT/CA99/00571**  
Filed: **June 17, 1999**  
For: **ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDE CONSTRUCTS BASED  
ON  $\beta$ -ARABINOFURANOSE AND ITS ANALOUES**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX PCT  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the fees pursuant to the entry into National Phase of the above-identified Application please amend the claims as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21-30 and amend claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-11 and 16-19, now on file as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition to selectively prevent gene transcription and expression in a sequence-specific manner; which comprises an effective amount of at least one selected from the group consisting of an oligonucleotide consisting essentially of arabinose sugars hybridizing to a single stranded RNA to induce RNase H activity; an